

BACK CLAIMS

IVDS INCAPACITATING-EPISODE FORMULA

An orthopedic blueprint for service connection, examination evidence, functional loss, and the current rating schedule.

STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

5243

LIMITED TO QUALIFYING DISC DISEASE

Current DC 5243 is assigned when disc herniation compresses or irritates the adjacent nerve root.

BED REST

PHYSICIAN-PRESCRIBED BED REST

An incapacitating episode requires bed rest prescribed by a physician and treatment by a physician.

12 MONTHS

TOTAL DURATION OVER THE PAST YEAR

The formula uses the combined duration of qualifying episodes during the previous 12 months.

COMPARE

USE THE HIGHER COMBINED EVALUATION

Compare the IVDS formula with the general formula plus separate neurologic ratings.

Use the regulation in effect for the rating period. Measure functional loss accurately, keep distinct manifestations separate, and avoid compensating the same symptom twice.